



Case Study: From a Computer Lab to 1:1 Program: The Minarah College Digital Transformation Story

Executive summary

Minarah College, an Independent Islamic school in Sydney's South West, fully embraced digital transformation by implementing a one-to-one student device learning program. Recognising the importance of new learning styles and a protechnology mindset, they knew that providing each student with a device they could 'control' was essential. To safeguard their students both offline and online as they provided devices to the kids, they sought an end-to-end solution to monitor and support their students' overall wellbeing.

This case study explores Minarah College's collaboration with Linewize, a trusted partner and expert to support their rapid digital transformation.



Embracing technology and finding ways to leverage it for educational growth is crucial in this ever-evolving digital landscape.”

Issam Ibrahim
Head of IT at Minarah College

The challenge and its context

Minarah College traditionally relied on computer labs for learning which gave them lesser control and visibility into the devices used by students. This prompted the transition to a one-to-one student device learning program. They chose Microsoft Services as their standard operating environment to manage their digital ecosystem, which made rolling out a fleet of devices to all student cohorts at once challenging. But the main priority was to make sure all devices were safe and they had visibility and insights into student device usage to make informed safeguarding decisions.



In the same way we ensure our school and premises are safe, we want to make sure the same is true online.”

Issam Ibrahim,
Head of IT at Minarah College

The Linewize journey

As the leading provider of digital wellbeing solutions to schools and families, Linewize was a natural fit for Minarah College because they:

- Have a history and track record in cyber safety solutions and a trusted R&D team keeping the platform up with the times.
- Offered the school a broad suite of services that allowed them to achieve a higher standard of digital safety and wellbeing in their 1:1 programs.
 - Powerful filtering and reporting solution for each device.
 - Visibility & control for teachers to support the use of Internet in the classroom.
 - Fully integrated parental control tools for device and child protection at home.
 - Leading, expert advice in online safety and guidance for your entire community.
- Have a local and experienced team of success and account management people to handhold schools and guide them through the whole process.



Without Linewize, we would just be getting limited information, and it would be difficult to monitor internet usage and content access.”

Issam Ibrahim,
Head of IT at Minarah College

Gaining visibility and insight with Linewize School Manager

One of the key considerations for the school was gaining complete visibility and insights into how the students were utilising their devices –on and off network. To address this, Linewize Connect proved invaluable for Minarah College.

Its user-friendly interface and dashboard provided them with immediate alerts and reports to make quicker informed decisions.

They could closely monitor what students were searching for, and if there are any behaviours and patterns that needed to be addressed, enabling them to tailor their support and intervention strategies accordingly. 





Helping the pastoral teams help vulnerable students

Minarah College's pastoral team (consisting of heads of year) received regular reports on students' online activities, with Linewize Connect. These reports set up by the IT team highlights concerning patterns, equipping the team with crucial information to offer targeted support, especially to vulnerable students.

Over time, the team became more experienced in using Linewize Connect, and addressing flagged issues directly has become a common practice. The platform's extensive monitoring capabilities have helped identify concerning online behaviour, enabling timely intervention and informing counselling sessions for example.

Before engaging in conversations with students, the team delves into their online interactions, seeking to understand the motivations behind their choices. As needed, they then refer the students to the school counsellor or implement appropriate programs, based on the discussions.

This approach has allowed the pastoral team to have more meaningful discussions with students, enabling them to address students' concerns sooner and especially identify vulnerable students that often fly under the radar.

Addressing teachers' and parents' concerns

The partnership with Linewize brought Minarah College's teachers and parents peace of mind regarding students' internet habits and access to potentially harmful content. With the new platform's reporting and integrated parental control tools, parents are empowered with immediate insights into their children's online activities. This enhanced visibility ensures that parents can stay on top of their children's digital lives and take necessary measures to ensure a safe and secure online environment.

The platform's user-friendly interface also made it easier for teachers to access and understand behavioural trends, enabling them to more quickly intervene when necessary. Via the Online Safety Hub the school now offers its staff and parents an integrated go-to place for expert cyber safety advice ensuring that everyone stays fully informed about the risks students are facing in the online world, allowing the wider school community to take a part in the children's digital wellbeing.



Thank you for listening to us, one dad came up to me and said after I presented the solutions we were rolling out in the school and home."

Jay Halai
Principal at Minarah College



Approaching one-to-one program implementation: Advice for other schools

Minarah College's advice for other schools considering a one-to-one program is clear: **strong leadership alignment is essential**. Having a united front between the head of IT and the School Principal accelerates progress and overcomes potential obstacles.

Minarah College's experience highlights the importance of making informed decisions based on each school's unique needs and goals. When considering whether to adopt a 1 to 1 student device approach, they recognised the added value of a two-in-one device (Microsoft Surface Pro 7+), emphasising the advantage of digital inking for their students as a competitive advantage compared to kids from other independent schools.

Taking a pro-technology approach

By adopting a pro-technology mindset, Minarah College has successfully navigated its digital transformation journey. They have recognised the importance of staying agile and adapting to new technologies, especially in light of events like Covid-19.

The college understands that embracing artificial intelligence (AI) and technology is essential for educational progress. By guiding students and the entire community to view technology as a positive tool, Minarah College is able to harness its potential for improved learning and teaching. In today's rapidly changing digital landscape, embracing change and leveraging technology is vital for educational growth.

Impact

Minarah College's collaboration with Linewize during its digital transformation journey proved to be highly beneficial, resulting in the successful implementation of a comprehensive solution to safeguard its students' wellbeing. By adopting Linewize's end-to-end solution, Linewize Connect, Minarah College unlocked a range of powerful monitoring capabilities. This implementation provided the college with valuable insights into their students' online activities and interactions, ensuring timely intervention and support when needed. The integration of Linewize's platform empowered Minarah College to establish a safe and secure digital environment for their students, teachers, and parents, fostering digital wellbeing and enhancing the overall learning experience.



We were told you should do BYOD by people we were consulting with during the process, and I said... we'll actually stay a mile away from that."

Jay Halai
Principal at Minarah College

Contact us

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About Linewize

Linewize create school communities that free our kids to get the best out of the digital world, while protecting them from harm. We empower school communities with the tools, expertise and support they need to ensure students are safe and prepared for their digital futures.

